MS 11344

K. E. E.

RCM London

SOCIETY OF WOMEN MUSICIANS

Twenty-fifth Anniversary of the Foundation
on the 15th of July 1911

TWO CHAMBER CONCERTS

of Works by Women who have been

MEMBERS S.W.M.

during the years 1911—1936

74 Grosvenor Street, London, W.1

Tuesday Evening	Wednesday Evening
July 14th, 1936	July 15th, 1936

Programme for both concerts—Price 6d.

Foreword

IN selecting the music for the following programmes, the desire of the Sub-Committee was to honour the dead and encourage the living, and at the same time to provide the hearers with an enjoyable variety of the best examples of Chamber Music written by some women who have been members of the Society during the twenty-five years of its existence. The items have therefore been arranged with a view to suitable contrast, not in chronological sequence ; and it would take a third concert to include all the composers whose work we should like to present.

The most recently written work to be heard bears the date of the present year. The earliest we give is the excerpt of Five Songs from the Song-Cycle, *In Memoriam*, by the Society's first President, Liza Lehmann, who wrote it in 1898. Herself a singer, her writing for the voice was exemplary, and it was she who " may be said to have established a vogue for song-cycles in England " (*Grove's Dictionary*).

Next to this in date comes an instrumental work, the String Quartet by Ethel Smyth, of which the two movements to be played were written in 1902 and put away, to be " rediscovered in the winter of 1911, when the composer was asked for a chamber work for the first public concert of the newly founded Society of Women Musicians. The two movements were accordingly given their first performance at this concert in the Small Queen's Hall on January 25th, 1912, the executants being the original London String Quartet—Messrs. Sammons, Petre, Warner and Warwick-Evans. To this fortunate resuscitation of its first half is due the completion of the work shortly afterwards " (*Cobbett's Cyclopædic Survey of Chamber Music*).

It is not without intention that one of the most recent examples of string quartet writing by a woman has been placed in the same programme as the Smyth work now. Ethel Smyth, 1902, and Elizabeth Maconchy, 1934, both

hold the torch high, though they may have lighted it from different fires, and it should prove extremely interesting to our audience to compare the two conceptions.

We give a further item from that first public programme of 1912 in the song, *Extase*, by Lucie Johnstone (" Lewis Carey " was her pen-name), one of the founder members of the Society, to whose unselfish enthusiasm much of its early success was due. To Kathleen Bruckshaw, too (one of whose pianoforte pieces will be played), the composers of the Society were much indebted for her collaboration in the War days, when we tried to meet each other regularly under conditions that made it difficult to believe that composition—or, indeed, music itself—" mattered ".

It may be news to a good many that our President in 1914 was the celebrated French composer, Cécile Chaminade. The Society had given a concert of her works in the Æolian Hall a few weeks before the outbreak of the Great War in August that year ; and when England and France cemented with blood their alliance in that terrible struggle, it was a great satisfaction to us to have made already this peaceful link of the arts. We associate ourselves again with Madame Chaminade's distinguished name in cordial remembrance.

Of the other names in the programme it is not necessary to give particulars. Several of the composers will be heard as performers of their own works. Others will be present to hear themselves performed. In a few cases, obituary dates will recall the sad losses we have had.

To complete the record of this year's celebrations, it should be added that four more composers were represented in the programme of the Reception at the Duke's Hall on May 28th ; their names, in alphabetical order, were Katharine Eggar, Helen Perkin, Theresa del Riego, Maude Valérie White.

To all—the absent and the present—the Society gives a proud and affectionate welcome.

? 99 minutes

Programme

TUESDAY EVENING, JULY 14TH

1 THEME AND VARIATIONS in A minor
for two Pianofortes — *Elsie Horne*
(*President*, 1932-1934)

9

THE COMPOSER JESSIE HALL

2 FIVE SONGS from *In Memoriam* (Tennyson)
with accompaniment for Strings and Pianoforte
Liza Lehmann
(*First President, S.W.M.—ob.* 1918)

(*a*) I sing to him that rests below
(*b*) (*Recit.*) : O sorrow, wilt thou live with me ?
(*c*) If sleep and death be truly one.
(*d*) To sleep I give my powers away
(*e*) Sweet after showers.

15

THOMAS DANCE

THE ROWENA FRANKLIN STRING QUARTET

ROWENA FRANKLIN (*1st Violin*) — *RHODA BACKHOUSE* (*Viola*)
NIGEL WHEELER (*2nd Violin*) — *EDITH LAKE* (*Violoncello*)

Pianoforte : EVELYN SUART (MRS. CECIL HARCOURT)

3 PIANOFORTE SOLOS

Dance in Spring — *Kathleen Richards*
Landscape — *Fiona McCleary*
12 Air de Ballet, op. 30 — *Cécile Chaminade*
(*President, S.W.M.*, 1914)

PEGGY GRUMMITT

4 SONATA in D for Violin and Pianoforte (1935)
Eleanor Rudall

18

i. Con ritmo energico ii. Canzone alla capricioso
iii. Allegro molto

MARGOT MACGIBBON FREDERIC JACKSON

5 PIANOFORTE SONATA (1936) *Monica Gillies-Myatt*

i. Introduction (Andante): Allegro energico. ii. Adagio.
iii. Allegro moderato (Rondo burlesco)

11

THE COMPOSER

6 SONGS

In a fairy boat (Bernard Weller)
A green cornfield (Christina Rossetti) } *Mabel Saumarez Smith* (*ob.* 1931)

When I sleep I dream (Robert Burns) *Lesley Davidson*

The three cherry-trees (Walter de la Mare) *Marie Dare*

Extase (Victor Hugo) "*Lewis Carey*" (*Lucie Johnstone*) (*Vice-President, S.W.M.*) (*ob.* 1925)

10

VERONICA MANSFIELD

At the Piano: ELLA IVIMEY

25 7 Quintet for Flute, Pianoforte, Violin, Viola and Violoncello (1934) *Ann Hamerton*

i. Allegro con brio
ii. Adagio espressivo
iii. Moderato

KATHLEEN BALDWIN (*Flute*)
THE COMPOSER (*Pianoforte*)
ROWENA FRANKLIN (*Violin*)
RHODA BACKHOUSE (*Viola*)
EDITH LAKE (*Cello*)

9 living composers
3 deceased "

?90 minutes.

+Composers present.

Programme

WEDNESDAY EVENING JULY 15TH

12

1 STRING QUARTET (the two original movements, first played at the Society's First Public Concert : 25th January, 1912) *Ethel Smyth*, D.B.E., MUS. DOC. (*Vice-President, S.W.M.*)

i. Allegro lirico
ii. Allegretto molto leggiero

THE ROWENA FRANKLIN STRING QUARTET

ROWENA FRANKLIN (*1st Violin*) *RHODA BACKHOUSE* (*Viola*)
NIGEL WHEELER (*2nd Violin*) *EDITH LAKE* (*Violoncello*)

9

2 SONATINA for Flute and Piano *Lois Henderson* (*ob.* 1936)

i. Allegro moderato
ii. Lento mistico : tempo rubato
iii. Animato e leggiero

(First holder of Corder Prize, R.A.M.)

BETTY BONNER DOROTHY PEACOCK

3 SONGS

Where ? (de la Mare)
Transformation (Emily Howson Taylor)
When daffodils begin to peer (Shakespeare)
} *Lilian Robinson*

The geese fly home
A walk by the river at night (a Chinese song with distant flute)
} *Alma Goatley* (*President*, 1936) +

12

MERIEL ST. CLAIR

At the Piano : MIRIAN DUNCAN *Flute :* BETTY BONNER

18

4 STRING QUARTET (1933) *Elizabeth Maconchy* +

Allegro feroce. Molto allegro. Andante sostenuto. Presto

THE MACNAGHTEN QUARTET

ANNE MACNAGHTEN *MARGARET LUDWIG*
ELISE DESPREZ *OLIVE RICHARDS*

5 PART SONGS FOR FEMALE VOICES

Carol (5 part): My bairn sleep softly now
(Anon.: Ancient English Christmas Carols)
Song (3 part):
Now will I weave white violets
(Meleager, transcribed by William Harding)
Imogen Holst

Carol: A little childe there is ibore
(Anon. XVth century)
Jane Joseph (*ob.* 1929)

10 (with string accompaniment)

THE CARLYLE SINGERS
Conductor: IRIS LEMARE
THE ROWENA FRANKLIN STRING QUARTET

6 PIANOFORTE SOLOS

Five Pieces, op. 11 — *K. Dorothy Fox* (*ob.* 1934)

1. Andante con moto
2. Presto
3. Andante
4. Allegro moderato
5. Presto

12 Will-o'-the-Wisp — *Hilda M. Grieveson* (*ob.* 1926)

In Remembrance (Edward MacDowell, 1908) — *Kathleen Bruckshaw* (*ob.* 1921)

MARY NOBLE

7 7 POEM WITH MUSIC

"La belle dame sans merci" (Keats) — *Dora White*

Voice: THOMAS DANCE

Music:
ALAN FRANK (*Clarinet*)
& THE ROWENA FRANKLIN STRING QUARTET

8 8 VARIATIONS FOR TWO PIANOFORTES on "The London Waits" — *Phyllis Tate*

First "Wait": MARY NOBLE
Second "Wait": AMY KEMP

7 living composers
5 deceased "

[PLEASE TURN OVER]

THE COMPOSERS

Kathleen Bruckshaw
Cécile Chaminade
Marie Dare
Lesley Davidson
Kalitha Dorothy Fox
Monica Gillies-Myatt
Alma Goatley
Hilda Grieveson
Lois Henderson
Ann Hamerton
Imogen Holst
Elsie Horne
Lucie Johnstone ("Lewis Carey")
Jane Joseph
Liza Lehmann
Fiona McCleary
Elizabeth Maconchy
Kathleen Richards
Lilian Robinson
Eleanor Rudall
Mabel Saumarez Smith
Ethel Smyth, D.B.E.
Phyllis Tate
Dora White

16 living
8 deceased

THE PERFORMERS

Kathleen Baldwin, Betty Bonner, Thomas Dance, Mirian Duncan,
Alan Frank, The Rowena Franklin String Quartet,
Monica Gillies-Myatt, Peggy Grummitt, Jessie Hall, Ann Hamerton,
Elsie Horne, Ella Ivimey, Frederic Jackson, Amy Kemp,
The Carlyle Singers with Iris Lemare, Margot Macgibbon,
The Macnaghten String Quartet, Veronica Mansfield, Mary Noble,
Dorothy Peacock, Meriel St. Clair,
Evelyn Suart (Mrs. Cecil Harcourt).

The Composers' Sub-Committee take this opportunity to express their appreciation of the help so cordially given by the Performers—Members and Guests alike—in the preparation of these two programmes.

Thomas F. Dunhill
Katharine E. Eggar
Dorothy Erhart
Elizabeth Maconchy
Marion M. Scott
Phyllis Tate

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